

# RSPCA.

## Volunteer for a day



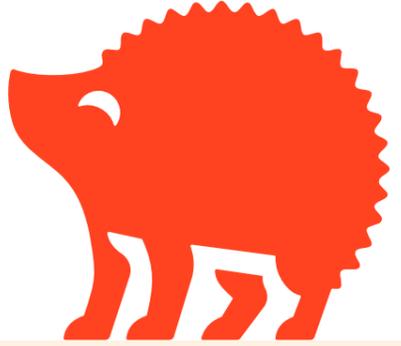
**Eight great ways you can volunteer with us  
for a day and help give animals a better life**



# Help create a better world for every animal

The RSPCA is the world's oldest animal welfare organisation. For over 200 years, we've been changing attitudes, behaviours and laws, and have transformed the lives of millions of animals. But we can't do it without the help of our supporters, campaigners and volunteers, so we're immensely grateful you're considering using your day of volunteering to help give animals a better life.

We have lots of activities you can take part in that will help support animals and our advocacy work.



**You can...**

<b>HELP WILDLIFE</b>	
Litter pick	3
Build bird boxes	4
Make wildlife shelters	4
Build bug hotels	5
<b>HELP THE RSPCA</b>	
Fundraise or collect for the RSPCA	7
Join our challenge event cheer teams	9
Make a 'hug in a rug'	9
Help our pet food banks	10

If you're interested in an ongoing volunteering role with us, please click on this [link](#). It brings up all the volunteer opportunities in your area, as well as ways you can help remotely.

**Don't forget – if you do take part in any of our activities, we'd love to know what you did and what you thought! We really value your feedback, so we've put together this [form](#) for you to complete. It takes less than two minutes. Thank you!**



# 1 Litter pick

Litter picking is a simple activity but it makes a huge difference to animals, helping to protect them from harm. You can do it on your own or get a group together. But remember, in certain locations you may need to ask permission for a group litter pick.

## Here's how to do it:

- Choose an area for your litter pick. All litter has the potential to harm wildlife, so wherever you collect it, you'll be helping! Collecting litter from a town centre can stop it reaching rivers and woodlands or hurting urban animals, such as foxes.
- [Keep Britain Tidy](#) has important health and safety information, along with guidance on how to organise litter picks, so please visit their website to get the most up-to-date and accurate information. They also have a very helpful [Beginner's guide to litter picking](#).
- You'll need to stay safe by wearing high-vis jackets and heavy-duty gloves, and using litter pickers and hand wash. Your local council may be able to provide these items or you could ask your employer if they'd be willing to pay for them. Remember to think about the weather conditions and the kind of environment you'll be in.



- Plan how you'll take the litter you've collected to a suitable location.
- If you're organising a group litter pick, decide on a date and time and make sure everyone knows where to meet and what to bring.
- Manage and take part in the litter pick. You might want to organise people into areas. Make sure everyone knows where to put their litter bags once they're full, what time to meet at the end, and where to put certain items if you're categorising them.
- Remember, if you find any clinical waste, such as needles and syringes, don't touch it. Instead, make a note of where it is and let your local council know. If you find very heavy items, sharp objects such as broken glass, dead animals or potentially hazardous objects, such as chemical containers, leave them alone and ask your local council to take them away. You can also let them know if you spot any fly-tipping.

**The impact you'll have on animal welfare:**  
You'll be helping to prevent harm to wildlife and pets by keeping their habitat safe for them.



## 2 Build bird boxes

Building bird boxes is a great way to support birds and lots of fun! There are loads of tutorials online for all abilities – from the complete beginner to the experienced woodworker. And don't forget, your workplace may be willing to pay for the materials.

Once you've made your bird boxes, place them higher than one metre off the ground, either on a tree or a wall of a building in your garden, to help keep birds safe from predators.



### The impact you'll have on animal welfare:

Your bird boxes will give birds somewhere safe to roost, lay their eggs, raise their young, and shelter from bad weather.

## 3 Make wildlife shelters

Lots of wild animals use shelters as a safe haven to rest, escape bad weather and raise their young. But different animals need different types of shelter. So, first decide on which animal you'd like to attract to your garden, then think about the type and size of shelter they'll need and where you'll put it. For example, frogs and other amphibians like cool and damp conditions – their shelter should give them access to a cool patch of soil during the summer. Birds, bats and small mammals such as hedgehogs need a space that's waterproof to keep them warm and dry.

Below are some useful links from our friends at Hedgehog Street and the Bat Conservation Trust showing how to make shelters for hedgehogs and bats, as well as a handy video showing how to make a safe haven for frogs.

- [Hedgehog home](#)
- [Bat box](#)
- [Frog hideaway](#)

And don't forget – ask your workplace if they'd be willing to pay for the materials!



### The impact you'll have on animal welfare:

Your shelters will provide a safe haven for hibernating and breeding wildlife, helping to protect them from predators and harsh weather.

## 4 Build bug hotels

Bug hotels attract lots of insects to gardens and other green spaces, which, in turn, attract other wildlife too! Placed on the ground, they'll encourage insects that hedgehogs like to eat. Attached to a wall, they'll be loved by bees, butterflies and moths.

You can make individual bug hotels to put in your own outdoor space or you could make a 'communal' bug hotel to go in a local community area, such as a school. If you'd like to make a communal bug hotel, research local green community spaces that you think would benefit from one. Then, ask permission from the relevant people, explaining the benefits, and agree on a spot where it will go.

Remember to wear sturdy gloves to protect yourself from splinters and any spikes or sharp edges. And don't forget to ask your workplace if they'd be willing to pay for the materials!



## To make a bug hotel



### You will need:

- Bamboo garden canes, hollow woody stems, cardboard tubes, corrugated cardboard, paper, bark, or any other tubes
  - Scissors and hacksaw
  - The end of a clean plastic bottle, an old mug or flower pot, or any other snug container
  - Pencil or screwdriver
  - Twigs, dried grass or straw
  - Natural string, if you plan on hanging up your bug hotel
1. Roll paper, cardboard or bark into tight tubes, or use hollow woody stems or other tubes, and cut to fit the length of your container. Variation is good – bees like holes from 2mm to 10mm. You can also use a hacksaw (ask for assistance if required) to cut bamboo canes to the length of your container. Some of the canes may be blocked inside; if so, clear them using a pencil or screwdriver.
  2. Pack the tubes tightly into the container. Fill any empty spaces with twigs, dry grass or straw.
  3. Choose a location for your bug hotel – a mixture of sun and shade will attract a wider range of insects. If you're hanging up your hotel, use natural string to create a strong loop.

# To make a ladybird hotel

## You will need:

- Small logs
  - A drill
  - **If creating a shelter:** pieces of wood, tiles or other repurposed materials, such as wooden pallets
  - Pine cones, straw and twigs
1. Drill several holes in the logs to make homes for ladybirds. They'll make their way into the depths of the logs to stay safe.
  2. If you like, you can place the logs in a shelter to protect the ladybirds from the weather. Create a frame and/or roof out of your pieces of wood, tiles, pallets or suitable, unused household items. Be creative, but make sure the shelter is safe.
  3. Fill any empty spaces with a variety of bedding materials, such as pine cones, straw and twigs.



**To make a communal bug hotel**

**The impact you'll have on animal welfare:**  
Your bug hotels will provide habitats for a range of insects, supporting animal welfare, biodiversity and promoting pollination.

## You will need:

- Several individual bug/ladybird hotels
- Wooden pallets or bricks, tiles and wood
- Pine cones, straw and twigs

1. Gather the bug and ladybird hotels you've made and the materials you plan to use for the structure. Local businesses may have wooden pallets they'd be willing to donate, and it might be possible to arrange for them to be delivered.
2. Place the hotels within a stack of pallets or layer them together with bricks, tiles and wood to create a sturdy structure.
3. Fill any gaps with a variety of bedding materials, such as pine cones, straw and twigs.





## 5 Fundraise or collect for the RSPCA

Did you know the RSPCA only exists because of donations from members of the public and companies? This means people like you are vital if we're to continue our work improving the lives of animals in need. By raising money for us, you'll join animal lovers across England and Wales who are determined to stop animal cruelty and neglect. Fundraising is also an opportunity to feel great about yourself and the impact you're making – as well as have fun!

Fundraising comes in different forms. We'd love you to organise an event that either raises money or collects items for your local branch or animal centre.

You can request our fundraising pack [here](#). It will give you hints and tips, along with poster templates and more. You'll need to look at our [fundraising terms and conditions](#), as they include legal information. If you sign up through our website, the money raised will go to us. You can also request a collection tin for your event [here](#).



If you're fundraising, there are lots of different events you could organise, including the following:

- Bake sale
- Physical challenge
- Collection
- 'Name the teddy' competition
- Sponsored silence
- Table top sale
- Gala event or masquerade ball

If you're collecting items for your local RSPCA branch or animal centre, you'll need to contact them first to find out what they need – examples could be food, blankets, toys, old towels and bedding.



### When planning your event, there are things to consider.

- You'll need to decide when and where. Are you able to hold it at your place of work? Do you need to get approval for your event? Which day will you hold it on? What time should it be? Is your event time-specific?
- Will you need help with your event, such as setting up, clearing up, or help throughout? It's always best to have a conversation with helpers, so you can be clear on what you're asking them to do and can answer any questions they may have.
- If you're doing a bake sale, you may want to ask colleagues to make extra cakes.
- If you're doing a collection, make sure people know what items are required.
- Be sure to advertise your event, including the date, time and location details.

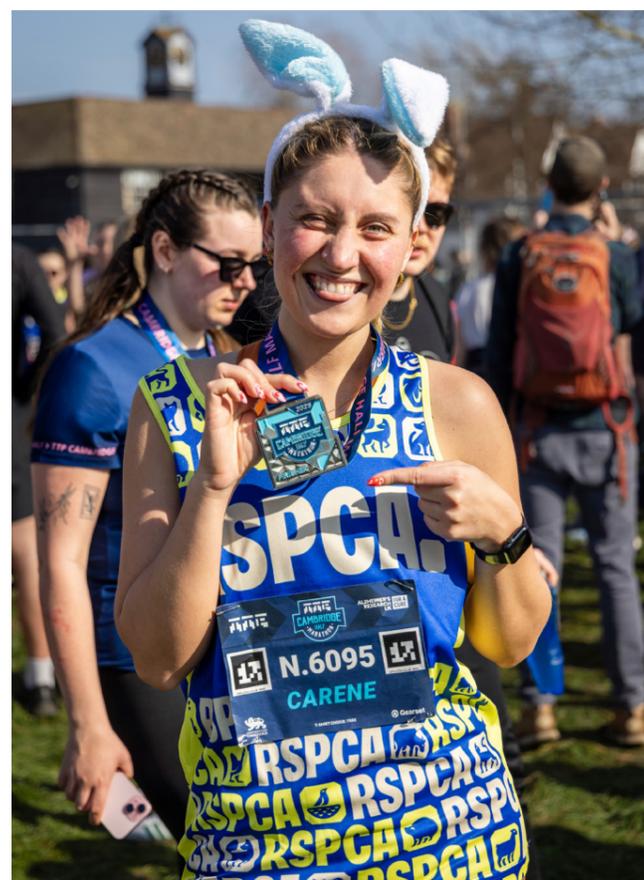
### On the day of your event:

- Give yourself plenty of time to set up.
- Make sure all your helpers know what time to be there and what they need to do.
- Make sure any cash/items are safe during the event.
- Clearly signpost your event to people.
- Make sure people know that you're fundraising or collecting for the RSPCA, and the branch or centre name if applicable.
- If collecting items for a branch or animal centre, contact them and organise a time to drop them off.
- If fundraising for the RSPCA, allow time to send in your donation.

## Take part in a physical challenge

Our Events Team has various events and challenges you can take part in, either individually or as a team. They can offer team places and support. To find out more, click [here](#) and you can also email them at: [events@rspca.org.uk](mailto:events@rspca.org.uk)

If you've decided to complete a challenge, you may need support before, during or afterwards. You may also want to set up a fundraising page, such as Just Giving or Go Fund Me. Make sure you spread the word about what you are doing. And, most importantly, have fun!



### The impact you'll have on animal welfare:

**YOUR FUNDRAISING CAN HELP THE ANIMALS IN OUR CARE.**

**£2,000** goes towards running one of our animal centres for a day

**£1,020** could feed the animals at one of our animal hospitals for a month

**£420** could help feed two cats in our care for a whole year

**£180** could help to feed the wild animals at an RSPCA wildlife centre for a day

**£250** keeps an inspector on the road for a day

**£100** could help an RSPCA inspector rescue an animal in need

**£50** feeds patients at one of our animal hospitals for a day

**£40** could microchip five cats and dogs before being rehomed

**£25** could fully vaccinate a cat or dog in an RSPCA animal hospital

**£6** answers a call at our National Control Centre, where members of the public can report instances of animal cruelty

## 6 Join our challenge event cheer teams

We always need volunteers to cheer our participants on as they take part in challenges. You'll have an inspirational, heartwarming and fun day out! Sometimes, we also need photographers, videographers and masseuses at these events. What skills can you bring along with the good cheer?

Here are some of the events we'd love cheerers for:

- Cambridge Half Marathon
- London Landmarks Half Marathon
- London Marathon
- Great North Run
- Royal Parks Half Marathon
- Cardiff Half Marathon

If you live near any of these events and would like to support us, or would like to find out if we have an event near you, please reach out to our Events Team at: [events@rspca.org.uk](mailto:events@rspca.org.uk)

### The impact you'll have on animal welfare:

By supporting our runners you'll be helping them every step of the way, inspiring them to reach the finish line and raise vital funds to continue our work. You'll also be giving them a huge thank you for all the hours they've put into training for the event day!

## 7 Make a 'hug in a rug'

Our pets love to snuggle up and get comfy, especially during the colder months of the year. Pet owners facing financial hardship may struggle to prioritise new beds and blankets for their pets, so this is where you can help! Through our [Community Paws](#) events, the RSPCA provides pet owners with essential provisions such as blankets. You can give us a helping hand by knitting cosy blankets that we can distribute along with other essential items to pet owners visiting us at food banks.

There's a wealth of FREE Knitting patterns and tutorials that can be found online – our only criteria is that the knit is tightly woven without any large holes.

Please send your completed blanket bundles to our team at:

**RSPCA Pet Food Bank Team**  
**RSPCA Leybourne Animal Centre**  
**199 Castle Way**  
**West Malling**  
**ME19 5HW**

Remember to make sure the items are clearly marked 'RSPCA Pet Food Bank Team'. Thank you!





# RSPCA.

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham RH12 1GY ■ 0300 1230 100 ■ [rspca.org.uk](https://rspca.org.uk)

Patron: HM King Charles III ■ We exist to inspire everyone to create a better world for every animal

[facebook.com/RSPCA](https://facebook.com/RSPCA) [x.com/RSPCA\\_official](https://x.com/RSPCA_official) [instagram.com/rspca\\_official](https://instagram.com/rspca_official)

[tiktok.com/@rspca\\_official](https://tiktok.com/@rspca_official) [linkedin.com/company/rspca](https://linkedin.com/company/rspca)

The RSPCA helps animals in England and Wales ■ Registered charity no. 219099

The RSPCA only exists with the support of public donations © RSPCA 2026. All rights reserved.

All images © RSPCA.